

THE BELLOWS

24 GREAT YEAR

March 20, 2003

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXIV, No. 6

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday March 20th..7:30 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:30 p.m.)
WHY	Short business meeting..auction (one item lot per member please)..door prize..Show & Tell..Member's trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting) <u>Program:</u> Share a favorite "treasure" from your collection with your fellow members. Enjoy the wonder and applause as you reveal how you aquired your "treasure" and show it's features.

THE TIME HAS COME---FINAL CALL FOR 2003 DUES:

Yes, fellow members, this will be the final issue of The Bellows you receive if you do not pay your \$10.00 dues for 2003 to Shirley by the first of April. Who still owe you ask? If your mailing label has a yellow unhappy face sticker on it...then you owe. If you just paid..never mind. Right now over 100 members have NOT paid for 2003. If you have just forgotten please send your payment to: Shirley Sparrow..300 Pease Road..Cle Elum, WA 98922. If you have decided to drop your membership we are sorry to see you leave, wish you well and hope you will return at a future date.

OUR SHOW IS ONLY A MONTH AWAY:

With little more than four weeks to go before our April 26th Show and Show experience Weekend your show committee is hard at work to make this 23rd Show the best one yet.

First, noted collector, author and speaker Matthew Isenburg is being flown in from the east coast to give our special Thursday night presentation. This will be in place of of regular meeting and be held at the same time and place on Thursday, April 24th. Mr. Isenburg's talk, and slide presentation, is a most special occasion for our Club and should not be missed. Please pass the word and bring any friends or general public you feel would enjoy hearing one of America's preeminent collectors of 19th century Daguerreian images and equipment.

Second, the Show committee hopes to increse attandance at our Friday evening hospitality room (from 8:30 p.m. till 11:00 p.m.) by returning to our orginial location at the Best Western Park Plaza Motel with FREE snacks and FREE beer and wine for sellers and their assistants. (of legal age of course) Please join us and relax..make, or renew, friendships, discuss favorite collectibles and share tales of the hunt.

Third, you all received a sign up form in your February Bellows for a FREE display table at our 23rd Great Show. Even if you are not planning on selling why not share with the public a display table with some of your most interesting pieces. Who knows how many people will remember they have one "just like that" they would be glad to let you have to help your collection. Remember, we give you \$25.00 just for doing the display..and you may win an award. Also, you get in free both Friday evening and Saturday morning which saves you \$15.00 and gives you first shot at the tables of treasures. What a deal! How can you lose? Become a displaying member of your club. Contact Don Friend by March 22. Alpafrind@AOL.com or phone: (360) 459-7835.

The February meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:30 p.m. (give or take a few milliseconds). There were 29 members and guests in attendance. The minutes were taken by Mike Immel writing in for Shirley while she tailgates around the Southwest. It was agreed that The Bellows minutes of the January meeting were more or less correct and that the Club still had funds. (Shirley and John shall return for our March meeting.)

OLD BUSINESS:

The "Show Report" was given by Committee Members:

Don Temple filled us in on our Show Experience Weekend guest speaker, Matthew Isenburg. His talk will be April 24th at our meeting hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please remember to bring your spouse and other interested friends as it will be a festive and informative evening. (Note from Mike: Here is a link to the Photographic Historical Society of Canada and their review of a talk Mr. Isenburg gave them.: <http://www.phsc.ca/matt.html> You may want to look it over and enjoy some of the photographs of his collection.)

Sign-up sheets were passed around for those people who would either like to work with the parking patrol or take tickets etc. at the entry door. One hour of work gets you a \$15.00 early in and the joy of knowing you are participating in your Club's activity. Don Friend reported that there were still display tables available and urged members..even those not selling..to do a display with a FREE display table.

There was an informative and rousing discussion concerning our Club's web site. Stan Kirlin and his committee said they would look at the many suggestions and report their progress at a future meeting.

PROGRAM AND SHOW & TELL:

One member chose to bring his favorite 35mm camera. Thank you Darrel. Several members had interesting Show & tell items. Thank you all.

AUCTION AND DOOR PRIZE:

Three items were auctioned off for a total of \$26.00. The door prize was won by a new member whose name did not get recorded. Sorry.

The meeting then adjourned for more nummie munching and wheeling and dealing.

THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Arizona Photographic Collectors:

What company made a "Mickey Mouse Photo Outfit" which included the camera, darkroom equipment and chemicals?



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is: <http://www.geocities.com/pspcs/index.html>

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, ssparrow@eburg.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our last Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 darrelcam@jps.net

Caveat Emptor

by Mike Kessler

It happened again. There I was, surfing the shoals and breakers of eBay when I spied a really neat stereoscope. It's one of those with a grained wood top and a velvet hood perched on a nickel plated pedestal, and which always shows up with the velvet in pretty ratty condition. This one was perfect and gorgeous.

It wasn't very high up on my "get" list, but the condition was so exceptional that I suffered over it for the next several days. Finally, as the auction was coming to an end, I decided to take the plunge, even though the price was getting pretty steep. As I gave the photos one last look before pressing the button, I felt something nagging at my overly eager brain. The color of the velvet was bright pinkish red. Hmmm ... pinkish red.... Oh jeez! It's one of *mine*!!! Just in time I recognized it as one of several restorations that I did many years ago on this style viewer. The velvet came from some absolutely authentic 1880s drapes that I bought at Brimfield, but the color was just a little off from the normal Burgundy hue of the original. Then came that hateful question again: should I do anything about my "epiphany?" I didn't.

This isn't the first time that I've seen old restorations of mine come on the market, touted as being "in absolutely original, *mint* condition." A year or so ago, a well known dealer in the Southeast was offering via eBay an extremely rare E.&H.T. Anthony Lilliput Detective Camera. It was offered as in original, mint condition, but I immediately recognized it as one of two Lilliput restorations of mine where I had to construct (laboriously hand stitch) the outer, satchel-like shell from scratch. The starting price would have been appropriate for a Lilliput in truly original condition, and I don't think it sold, but it was offered several times after that. I like to think no one was fooled.

In February, 1997, the best restoration (in my humble opinion) that I ever did came up for auction at Christie's in London. Twenty one years earlier I had turned a pile of rotting wood and leather belonging to John Dobran into a mint example of a Brainerd & Levison Hand Camera. This particular B&L came in the form of a leather doctor's bag — the only such example known (I have a "normal" B&L in my own collection, a spectacular camera in its own right). Some time later John suffered a massive stroke which left him unable to care for himself, and his collection was split in many directions. The camera was "lost" for many years, but then it popped up at that auction. The catalogue listing was particularly satisfying. They actually gave me credit for doing the restoration in 1976.

OK, it was estimated at £10,000 to £15,000, but it went for just over £8,000 (including the 15% buyer's premium). Still pretty good for a camera where literally everything you see was made by yours truly. This isn't the end of the story however. A couple of years ago I saw it again, on eBay of all places, offered by a well known British camera dealer for £15,000. This time there was no mention of its restored status. Verrrry interesting.

When I first started doing restorations for several collectors and dealers many years ago, I always left a tiny mark, my initials and date, scratched in some out-of-the-way spot, as a guard against future confusion. When one particular dealer found one of my marks, he went postal, saying he didn't want me to do that anymore. I continued marking some pieces, but I figured that few collectors would really be fooled into thinking that a camera can last over a hundred years with virtually perfect leather.

I did get a measure of revenge on that dealer recently when I let him know that the item he was offering as completely original was really half-Kessler. When I also mentioned that I might contact the high bidder as well, he fell all over himself to do just that.

The moral to all this is just the old saw: "If it looks too good to be true, it probably is." Caveat Emptor (Let the buyer beware)!

PhotoHistory XII, September 19-21, 2003

Previous PhotoHistory symposiums have been enjoyed by essentially all who participated. Interesting speakers, opportunities to meet collectors and historians from around the world, and touring the Eastman House are just three of the reasons to attend this event which is held once every three years.

The 12th Triennial Symposium on the History of Photography, sponsored since 1970 by The Photographic Historical Society (TPHS) in cooperation with The International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House, will be held in Rochester, New York, September 19-21, 2003. This is about a month earlier than in the past.

Highlights of the weekend activities are the evening reception on Friday, the full day of talks on Saturday, and Sunday's Photographic Trade Show. For additional information, visit the TPHS web site at <http://www.tphs.org> or email tphs@rochester.rr.com. The announcement concludes, "Start developing your plans for PhotoHistory XII now!"

OTHER NORTHWEST SHOWS COMING UP:

On Sunday, March 30th Siggi is holding another Vancouver Canada Show at Lougheed Mall, Burnaby B.C.--9523 Cameron. There are 180 tables at \$30.00 each. Four dollars gets you in from ten a.m. to 4 p.m. \$15.00 early in gets you in at 9 a.m. Children under 14 get in free with an adult. For all the info. call or fax Siggi: 604 941-0300.

The Columbia Gorge Camera Club is presenting it's 8th Annual Gresham Camera Swap Meet on Saturday June 21, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gresham Grange 875 NE Division St. Gresham, Oregon. This is just east of Portland of I-84 at the 238th exit. Go south to Hogan Rd. turn right onto Division. The Grange is on the right just past Cleveland (the street). Table costs are \$35.00 for one and \$65.00 for two. You can buy a half table for \$20.00. Admission is \$4.00..early bird is \$10.00 at 7:30 a.m. For information call (503) 239-8912. You may write to: Krystal..Columbia Gorge Camera Club..1640 SE Ellis St...Portland, OR 97202. This has been a very friendly but very small Show in the past. As it is being held on June 21st sellers may indeed find it to be a very long day.

The following is from The Chicago Photographic Collectors Society and is used with much thanks. Ed.

Some time ago I had to sacrifice a very nice Canon A-1 body because it had developed the dreaded 'squeak'. The lubricant on the mirror swing damper mechanism had dried out and eventually the little cogs would seize up and all life would end. I sold the camera at a very low price with full disclosure.

Now, just a week ago a pristine AE-1 developed the same wretched 'squeak'. Enquiries suggested removal of the mirror box and fresh lubrication, about \$150 for the job, or maybe just pull the top off and oil the little brass inertia wheel which spins with the cogs and dampens the action. This also is about \$100 and is considered a 'quickie' operation. These fixes would include a CLA and great bonhomie all round, but since I collect A type Canons the costs would escalate. There must be a better way to get a drop of oil on the right spot to cure the squeak.

Prowling the net I found a site which showed a rather simple method to get just the right amount of light oil to just the right spot in the camera. To start, remove the lens. Then remove the four screws securing the face plate around the lensmount. As you lift off the faceplate take care with the two small contact buttons on the right of the lensmount.

Now remove the top left hand screw securing the lensmount. Put it with the other screws, (its bigger).

Next, take an ordinary 3ml syringe with a 40 mm needle. Cut off the tapered point, (make sure not to crimp-seal the bore), and then bend the last 7mm of the needle about 65 degrees. Put

about 0.5 ml of oil in a small container and draw up a small amount of this into the needle.

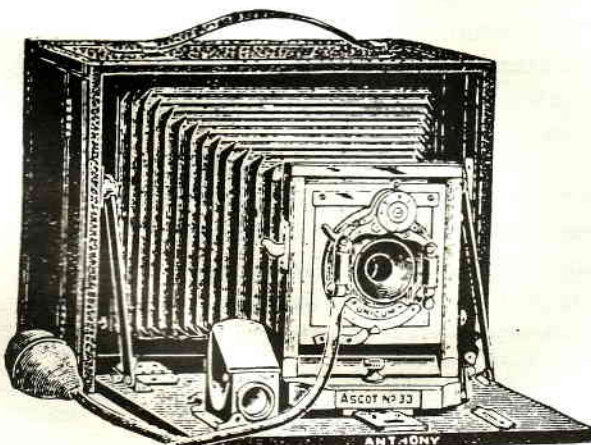
Poke the needle into the top left screw hole and angle it so that the bent 7mm is against the inside wall of the camera with the tip aiming left at about seven o'clock. Gently squeeze a small drop of oil out and remove the syringe. Now work the shutter and see if the squeak is gone, if not then try it again with just a smidgen more oil. That will do it. There is no more squeak. Replace the lensmount screw and dab it with nail varnish (or Locktite) and replace the face plate with four screws remembering to wriggle those little switches to a good fit. Thats it, ten minutes.

The web site which gave me this idea is <pages.cthome.net/pdcmec/csl.jpg> but the link seems not to work anymore. So I reconstructed the essentials as I recall them. I can make no claims for this procedure, I did not invent it, and I suspect it will meet with scorn from professional camera repair people.

The trick is to only draw up oil into the needle, not the syringe. This way you do not risk oiling up the whole works including the shutter curtain. Practice squeezing out just one drop at a time on a piece of paper before you get stuck into the camera.

This trick works with the A-1, and the AE-1 and it should work with the other A series cameras, the AT-1, AL-1, AV-1.

Peter Knowlden



Answer: The Houghton Company (London, England) came out with the Ensign Mickey Mouse box camera around 1935, which

included the darkroom supplies. The Houghton's started business in 1834. In over 100 years they had several mergers but finally went out of business in 1961 after 127 years. Before and after World War Two they were one of the largest producers of photographic equipment.



Photo from McKeown's